

Message Text

SECRET

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47/44

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 OMB-01 AID-20 DRC-01

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O P 261215Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4306

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NY PRIORITY

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI PRIORITY

COMUSSAG NKP THAI PRIORITY

S E C R E T PHNOM PENH 14389

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (F O R T E X T)

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT, CB

SUBJ: LONG BORET CABINET IS FORMED

1. PRIME MINISTER LONG BORET HAS JUST INFORMED US THAT HIS CABINET HAS NOW BEEN FORMED AND APPROVED BY THE HIGH POLITICAL COUNCIL AND OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES. IT WILL BE ANNOUNCED TO THE PRESS THIS AFTERNOON DECEMBER 26. BORET HIMSELF TOOK OVER THE PRIME MINISTER'S FUNCTIONS FROM IN TAM SHORTLY AFTER NOON TODAY. THE CABINET WILL MEET TOMORROW AFTERNOON TO AGREE UPON ITS PROGRAM. PRESENTATION OF THE CABINET TO PARLIAMENT SHOULD FOLLOW SOON THEREAFTER.

2. FOLLOWING ARE PRINCIPAL FEATURES OF NEW CABINET:

A. CABINET WILL CONSIST OF 16 PORTFOLIOS, SIX HELD BY SOCIO-REPUBLICANS, FOUR BY REPUBLICANS, FOUR BY INDEPENDENTS AND TWO MILITARY.

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B. A SUBSTANTIAL NUMBER OF LONGTIME MINISTERS HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED. FIRST VICE PRIME MINISTER HANG THUA HAK, MINISTER ATTACHED TO THE PRESIDENCY MAU SAY, MINISTER OF SOCIAL ACTION KEAM RETH, AND FINANCE MINISTER KEO MONG KRY, IN ADDITION TO EIGHT OTHERS.

C. REPUBLICAN OP KIM ANG AND LON NOL INTIMATE MAJGEN THAPPANA NGINN WILL RETAIN THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES (PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORT, AND DEFENCE)

BUT ADVANCE TO RANK TO FIRST DEPUTY AND SECOND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER RESPECTIVELY.

D. U.S. EDUCATED, ONE TIME INFORMATION MINISTER KEUKY LIM WILL BE MINISTER ATTACHED TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (THE TITLE IS APPARENTLY A COMPROMISE WITH MATAK, WHO WANTED BORET TO TAKE THIS JOB HIMSELF), AND RANK SIXTH.

E. SOCIO-REPUBLICAN CHHANN SOKHUM WILL GET INTERIOR, THE FOURTH SLOT, AND REPUBLICAN TRINH HOANG IS THE NEW MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND TOURISM (NUMBER FIVE). THESE WERE THE HARDEST APPOINTMENTS FOR LONG BORET AND THE YOUNGER SOCIO-REPUBLICANS TO SWALLOW BUT THERE APPEARED TO BE NO OTHER AVAILABLE CANDIDATES WHO WOULD MAINTAIN THE POLITICAL BALANCE OF PORTFOLIOS ALREADY AGREED UPON.

F. KHY TAING LIM GETS FINANCE AS WELLAS THE PLAN, A WISE MOVE IN OUR ESTIMATE.

G. DEPUTY THACH TOAN IS NAMED MINISTER OF LABOR, SOCIAL ACTION, REFUGEES AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT. THE IS A GOOD SOP FOR THE YOUNG SOCIO-REPUBLICAN REBELS AND WILL, WE HOPE, DIMINISH UNREST IN THAT SECTOR.

H. DOUNG SARETH (CHENG HENG'S SON-IN-LAW) MOVES TO THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY.

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I. SAPHON SARASI (COMMERCE), UN SAMUTH (CULTURE), CHHIENG KIMSUOR (PTT, LY KVANG PAN (JUSTICE), SOK HEANG SUN (HEALTH), KEO SANGKIM (EDUCATION) AND SISOWATH DUONG CHIVIN (AGRICULTURE) REMAIN.

3. IMMEDIATE IMPRESSION OF THE CABINET LIST IS THAT IT ELIMINATES MUCH OF THE DEAD WOOD IN ITS PREDECESSOR, AND IS MORE COHERENT AS WELL AS COMPACT. WE WILL

COMMENT FURTHER WHEN THE PROGRAM HAS BEEN DRAWN UP AND
PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT.
ENDERS

SECRET

NNN

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